

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Bloom *et al.*

Appl. No. 10/762,492

Filed: January 23, 2004

For: **Rapid Growing Microorganisms
for Biotechnology Applications**

Confirmation No.: 4921

Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: Hines, J.

Atty. Docket: IVGN 347
(formerly 0942.5490002/RWE/FRC)

Reply to Restriction Requirement

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated October 6, 2006.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the subject matter of Restriction Group I, claims 1-14 and 77-79, drawn to *E. coli* having a growth rate that is at least 5% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294 and a composition comprising *E. coli* having a growth rate that is at least 5% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294, classified in class 424, subclass 241.1. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed. This election is made without traverse.

Respectfully submitted,

/Natalie A. Davis/